

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A mechanically ~~Mechanically~~ and hydrodynamically operated brewing unit (1) for automatic beverage vending machines, said brewing unit comprising:

[[-]] a rotatable base (3) provided with a compartment (15) adapted to act as a brewing chamber, said compartment (15) being open on top and comprising a bottom wall; (16);

[[-]] means (32) to let water under pressure into said compartment; (15);

[[-]] connecting means (18) for conveying ~~the~~ brew to a ~~the~~ beverage dispensing point; and

[[-]] a brewing head movable relative to the rotatable base by means of a crank-connecting rod mechanism, said brewing head (4) comprising:

[[-]] a hollow containment structure; (27);

[[-]] a first hollow piston (28) ~~that is housed within said hollow containment structure (27) movably relative thereto,~~ wherein a first interstice is provided between the first piston and the hollow containment structure;

[[-]] a second piston (29) ~~that is housed within said first piston (28) movably relative thereto,~~ wherein a second interstice is provided between the first piston and the second piston;
and

[[-]] elastic means (30) opposing the movement of said second piston (29),
wherein the first interstice and the second interstice are both hydraulically connected to a fluid supply means provided for operating said first and second pistons ~~characterized in that said first and said second piston (28, 29) are operated by the direct action of a fluid under pressure.~~

2. **(Currently Amended)** The brewing ~~Brewing~~-unit (1)-according to claim 1, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the movement of said rotatable base (3)-and said brewing head (4)- are controlled and brought about by a kinematic chain of mechanical members.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The brewing ~~Brewing~~-unit (1)-according to claim 2, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ said mechanical members comprise ~~a crank (5)~~ said crank-connecting rod mechanism, ~~a connecting rod (6)~~, a detent lever (13), and a first guiding profile (23)-that coordinates the movement of said rotatable base (3)-with the movement of said brewing head (4).

4. **(Currently Amended)** The brewing ~~Brewing~~-unit (1)-according to claim 1, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ said second piston (29)-is provided with a circumferential edge that is so-shaped and made so as to be able to pierce the material which a hermetically sealed capsule (11) ~~of a hermetically sealed type~~ is made of.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The brewing ~~Brewing~~-unit (1)-according to claim 1, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the direction of displacement of the second piston (29)-relative to the first piston (28)-is determined by the direction of the force resulting between the action of the elastic means (30)-and said direct action of the fluid under pressure.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The brewing ~~Brewing~~-unit (1)-according to claim 1,

wherein characterized in that said bottom wall (16) comprises a plurality of projections (17), each one of ~~which comprises~~ said projections comprising an aperture.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The brewing ~~Brewing~~ unit (1) according to claim 1, wherein characterized in that said fluid under pressure moves within a conduit (34) connected to the containment structure (27).

8. **(Currently Amended)** The brewing ~~Brewing~~ unit (1) according to claim 1, wherein characterized in that said containment structure (27) comprises a safety bleeding provision (35).

9. **(Currently Amended)** The brewing ~~Brewing~~ unit (1) according to claim 1, wherein characterized in that said fluid under pressure is in its liquid state or in its gaseous state.

10. **(Cancelled)**

11. **(Currently Amended)** The brewing ~~Brewing~~ unit (1) according to claim 2, wherein characterized in that said second piston (29) is provided with a circumferential edge that is so-shaped and made so as to be able to pierce the material which a hermetically sealed capsule (11) of a ~~hermetically sealed type~~ is made of.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The brewing ~~Brewing~~ unit (1)-according to claim 3, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ said second piston (29) is provided with a circumferential edge that is so-shaped and made so as to be able to pierce the material which a hermetically sealed capsule (11) of a ~~hermetically sealed type~~ is made of.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The brewing ~~Brewing~~ unit (1)-according to claim 2, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the direction of displacement of the second piston (29) relative to the first piston (28) is determined by the direction of the force resulting between the action of the elastic means (30) and said direct action of the fluid under pressure.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The brewing ~~Brewing~~ unit (1)-according to claim 3, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the direction of displacement of the second piston (29) relative to the first piston (28) is determined by the direction of the force resulting between the action of the elastic means (30) and said direct action of the fluid under pressure.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The brewing ~~Brewing~~ unit (1)-according to claim 4, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the direction of displacement of the second piston (29) relative to the first piston (28) is determined by the direction of the force resulting between the action of the elastic means (30) and said direct action of the fluid under pressure.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The brewing ~~Brewing~~ unit (1)-according to claim 2,

wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said bottom wall (16) comprises a plurality of projections (17), each one of ~~which comprises~~ said projections comprising an aperture.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The brewing ~~Brewing~~ unit (1) according to claim 3, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said bottom wall (16) comprises a plurality of projections (17), each one of ~~which comprises~~ said projections comprising an aperture.

18. **(Currently Amended)** The brewing ~~Brewing~~ unit (1) according to claim 4, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said bottom wall (16) comprises a plurality of projections (17), each one of ~~which comprises~~ said projections comprising an aperture.

19. **(Currently Amended)** The brewing ~~Brewing~~ unit (1) according to claim 5, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said bottom wall (16) comprises a plurality of projections (17), each one of ~~which comprises~~ said projections comprising an aperture.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The brewing ~~Brewing~~ unit (1) according to claim 2, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said fluid under pressure moves within a conduit (34) connected to the containment structure (27).